America, Russia, and the Cold War, 1945-1996 by Walter LaFeber
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nizes the media coverage of five such issues: dowry deaths, rape, the Shah Bano controversy, female foeticide, and the *sati* (suttee) of Roop Kanwar. Pathriarchy remains unquestioned, but overt sexism is becoming increasingly rare, and the soft pornography found in the gutter press in many Western countries is entirely unknown in India. The vernacular press is far more widely read, and consequently less elitist. With local languages tending to be more expressive and often emotive as well, the vernacular press has in several instances been more inflammatory than the English press, and has thereby contributed to communal tension. The regional papers examined in this study vary regarding their emphasis on women's issues. A Gujarati newspaper, for example, has long carried columns by feminist writers, whereas most of them confirm the conclusions drawn from the study of the English press. If I should point at any weakness of this book, it would be at the choice of analysing what the press *did* cover, rather than looking at the issues that were ignored or played down. These could have been documented through ethnographic studies, interviews or narratives – but, again, that would have been an entirely different study. All in all, although the book is not entirely new, it holds equal significance today, in a country in which one of the largest television channels, Zee TV, celebrated International Women's Day in 1997 by featuring programme after programme on beauty and skin-care, produced by Lakmé.

KF

■ King, Gary, 1997. *A Solution to the Ecological Inference Problem. Reconstructing Individual Behavior from Aggregate Data.* Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. 342 pp.

The problem of drawing inferences about individual behavior from aggregate data is known as the ecological inference problem. This problem has plagued users of statistical analysis whenever theory calls for individual-level analysis and such data are unavailable. Social scientists have generally followed the maxim of avoiding the ecological inference problem altogether. Yet, many important questions do require ecological inferences. Now that Gary King has developed a technique for analytically dealing with the ecological inference problem we can begin to answer these questions. King's book is organized into six parts. Both a qualitative and formal introduction are provided. A catalog of problems to fix follows in Part II, including both aggregation and non-aggregation problems. In Part III, King presents his solution to the ecological inference problem. Chapters in this part of the book describe the graphical and statistical techniques that constitute his solution. Drawing on a variety of examples, Part IV provides verification of King's technique by comparing the ecological inferences of his models to actual individual-level data. Part V generalizes the model to non-ecological aggregation problems, discusses various extensions, and presents a concluding section. Part VI is a set of technical appendices. Most of King's examples that compare ecological inference to actual individual data draw on issues of race and voter registration or race and voting decision, but many more datasets are also examined. While none of the examples directly reflect questions of peace research, King's technique could certainly be applied to a wide variety of cases involving bivariate ecological inference problems.

SG

■ LaFeber, Walter, 1997. *America, Russia, and the Cold War, 1945–1996.* 8th edn. New York: McGraw-Hill. 408 pp.

This is a revised and considerably updated version of a book first published in 1967, now covering the whole Cold War period and the first five years after the end of the Cold War. With this new edition, LaFeber remains one of the leading scholars in this field. In addition to changes and improvements made throughout the book, four issues can be singled out as especially worthy of note: first, LaFeber's inclusion of previously unavailable Soviet and Chinese primary sources. He has made extensive use of work produced by scholars within the field of 'new Cold War history', the best example being his rewriting of the period from 1945–53, and in particular the chapter on Korea. The new material has been integrated into the book in an elegant manner. Second, LaFeber now focuses more on Soviet–Russian developments, based on the notion that the years after 1991 have shown that US–Russian problems did not end with the Cold War, and that Russia will remain a nation that poses important challenges to the USA. Third, in this latest edition the author has re-emphasized his argument from the first edition

that 'US foreign and domestic policies were linked, and that the latter usually shaped the former'. Finally, the last chapter, which takes us almost up to the present, has been rewritten and updated, and provides a good introduction to the first post-Cold War years. For this edition, the bibliography has been extensively expanded and updated to include newly published works.

MO

■ Lehning, Percy B., ed., 1998. *Theories of Secession.* London & New York: Routledge. 262 pp.

Secessionist conflicts are clearly on the increase: this should point up the importance of a serious discussion of the issue of secession. This volume in the European Political Science Series is the result of a workshop on 'Theories of Secession' held in 1995 by the European Consortium for Political Research. Well-known scholars in this field, such as Harry Beran, Allen Buchanan, and Will Kymlicka, offer contributions to what is a comprehensive analysis of the theoretical dimensions of secession. The legal and historical aspects of self-determination and secession have been explored elsewhere, but here we find a first concerted effort to engage in a systematic theoretical debate on moral justifications for a right to secede. The approach of this anthology is to explore the arguments of political theory used to justify or ban secession, 'to locate the right to secede within the broader context of contemporary political theory'. The central question is which arguments justify a demand for secession. Beran offers a liberal argument based on the right to free political association. Whether or not secession can be justified on liberal premises is discussed; and Linda Bishai argues that allowing secession merely creates new secessionist conflicts, thereby perpetuating the problem. Kymlicka eliminates federation as an alternative solution because of what he sees as its inherent instability. Buchanan argues that if a theory of secession is to be of any value and function as guidance for international reform, international legal institutions must be taken into greater account. These are only a few of the approaches explored in this interesting book. *Theories of Secession* provides a valuable contribution to the debate of whether and how a right to secession can be justified.

OW

■ Mapel, David R. & Terry Nardin, eds, 1998. *International Society. Diverse Ethical Perspectives.* Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. 263 pp.

In this book, David Mapel and Terry Nardin have collected some of the major names in the field of international ethics today. Contributers include scholars such as Pierre Laberge, Fernando Tesón, Chris Brown, Brian Barry, and David Miller. All the contributors consider three main questions: first, how should we understand 'international society'? On which principles does it operate, and, to the extent it changes, what type of transformation would be desirable? Second, what is the normative status of international law? How does international law achieve its authority, and what is the relationship between international law and international justice? Finally, by what criterion should we judge the justice of international laws and institutions? However, if the same basic questions are asked throughout the book, the answers are definitely not the same. Here we are presented with such diverse perspectives as Kantian liberalism, legal positivism, natural law, contractarianism, cosmopolitanism, as well as Jewish, Christian, and Islamic perspectives. This volume should be useful both for readers new to the normative questions of international affairs, and for those familiar with the issues, but who would like an overview of the most recent scholarship in the field.

YD

■ Rommen, Heinrich A., 1998. *The Natural Law: A Study in Legal and Social History and Philosophy.* Translated by Thomas R. Hanley. Introduction by Russell Hittinger. Indianapolis, IN: Liberty Fund. 278 pp.

First published in 1936 as *Die ewige Wiederkehr des Naturrechts,* this book is a re-edition of the 1947 English-language translation of Rommer's classic study. The first part of the book studies the historical development of the idea of natural moral law from its beginnings in ancient Greece, its ample elaboration in the Middle Ages, to its abandonment and subsequent rediscovery modern times; the second provides a systematic examination of this idea in the light of its metaphysical, epistemological, and ethical underpinnings. Legal positivism is the foil against which Rommer articulates his account. While prac-